## **CLAIMS**

We claim:

1. An data structure stored in a data store, comprising:

a plurality of data values comprising an item specification provided in a plurality of data fields describing an item, said data fields including:

at least one attribute value; at least one component value; and at least one allocation value.

10

5

2. The data structure of claim 1 wherein the attribute comprises one of a group consisting of the following: a physical attribute of the item; and a functional attribute of the item.

15

3. The data structure of claim 1 wherein the specification further includes a virtual area association.

20

4. The data structure of claim 1 further including an item type data structure, including attribute definitions and component definitions.

-0

5. The data structure of claim 1 further including at least one history tracking field identifying changes to data in said other fields.

25

- 6. The data structure of claim 5 wherein said history tracking field is updated based on a publication process.
- 7. The data structure of claim 1 further including an item type defining said data fields for at least one item specification.

Attorney Docket No.: TRIRG-01001US0 LEV

Z:\trirg\1001\1001.app.doc

10

15

20

25

- 8. The data structure of claim 1 further including a schedule definition comprising at least one specification.
- 9. A method for constructing data concerning item specifications of an asset, comprising:

providing a user data entry interface;

receiving a plurality of data values, each into a data field of the interface, wherein the plurality of data fields comprise a specification for the item and each data field of the specification describes an attribute of the item, and

storing the specification into a database on a computer system.

- 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the attribute being one of a group consisting of the following: a physical attribute of the item; and a functional attribute of the item.
- 11. The method of claim 9 wherein the method further includes:

storing an item object in the database;

creating a relationship between the item object and the specification;

storing the relationship in the database.

- 12. The method of claim 9 wherein said step of providing occurs on a first computer and said step of storing occurs on a second computer.
  - 13. The method of claim 12 wherein said step or providing includes providing said user data entry interface to a first computer and

said step of receiving occurs on a second computer, and said first and second computers are coupled by a network.

- 14. The method of claim 13 wherein said network is the 5 Internet.
  - 15. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of providing comprises providing a template creation tool.
- 16. The method of claim 15 wherein said step of providing 10 comprises providing a specification creation tool.
  - 17. The method of claim 15 wherein said step of providing comprises providing a specification management tool
  - 18. The method of claim 1 further including the steps of: defining a specification template; and said step of receiving comprises: receiving said data values into one or more templates to create one or more specifications.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein said step of defining said template comprises:

receiving general properties information; and receiving attribute information.

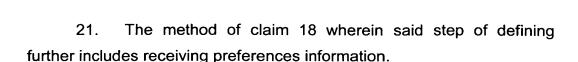
20. The method of claim 19 wherein said step of defining further includes receiving component information.

Attorney Docket No.: TRIRG-01001US0 LEV Z:\trirg\1001\1001.app.doc

Express Mail No. EL 795247690 US

25

15



22. The method of claim 9 wherein said receiving step includes defining a configurable data object by performing at least one of a group consisting of the following:

> defining the configurable data object; adding an attribute to the configurable data object; modifying an attribute of the configurable data object; and removing an attribute from the configurable data object.

10

5

23. The method of claim 9 wherein the method includes the sub-step of configuring a configurable data object.

15

24. The method of claim 9 wherein the configurable data object comprises a specification for the item.

The method of claim 9 wherein the steps of providing and

25.

20

26. The method of claim 25 wherein the network is the Internet.

receiving are performed on a computer coupled to a network.

- 27. The method of claim 25 wherein the step of receiving is performed by receiving data from an item management application provided as part of the data entry interface.
- 28. A method of allowing users to manage an asset. comprising:



	(a)	providing	an	application	server	coupled	to	а
network;								

- (b) providing, responsive to a client request, an item specification management toolset including at least one template definition application; and
- (c) receiving data from the client and storing it in a database.
- 29. The method of claim 28 wherein said step (b) comprises providing an item specification publisher.
  - 30. The method of claim 28 wherein said step (b) comprises providing an item specification schedule builder.
- 15 31. The method of claim 28 wherein said step (b) comprises providing an attribute manager.
  - 32. The method of claim 28 wherein said step (b) comprises providing a component manager.
  - 33. The method of claim 28 wherein said step (b) comprises providing an item specification creation wizard.
- 34. The method of claim 28 wherein said step (c) comprises:
  receiving data from the item specification management toolset including one of at least attribute data or component data.

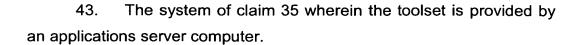
- 35. A system for defining and managing an asset, comprising: a data store for item specification data provided on a host computer coupled to a network; and
- a data input toolset comprising at least an item type manager and an item specification manager.
  - 36. The system of claim 35 further including an item specification publisher.
- 37. The system of claim 35 further including an item specification schedule builder.
  - 38. The system of claim 35 wherein the item type manager includes an attribute manager.
  - 39. The system of claim 35 wherein the item type manage includes a component manager.
- 40. The system of claim 35 wherein the item specification manager includes an item specification creation wizard.
  - 41. The system of claim 35 wherein the data store and the data input toolset are provided on the host computer.
- 25 42. The system of claim 35 wherein the data store is provided on the host computer and the data input toolset is provided to a second, client computer.

10

15

20

25



- 44. The system of claim 42 wherein the host computer is coupled to the Internet and the data input toolset is provided to a client computer via the Internet.
- 45. The system of claim 42 wherein the host computer is coupled to the Internet and the data store is accessible by a plurality of clients via the Internet.
- 46. The system of claim 35 further including a specification reference tracking facility.
- 47. The system of claim 35 further including a linking facility allowing project participants to link project areas to item specification data.
- 48. The system of claim 35 further including a permissions facility regulating the actions of project participants with respect to item specification data in the data store.
- 49. The system of claim 35 further including an approval routing tool based on a publication of at least one item specification.

50. The system of claim 35 further including a notification tool linked to specific actions affecting data in the data store and providing notifications to project participants when specific actions occur as defined by a user set business rules.

Attorney Docket No.: TRIRG-01001US0 LEV

Z:\trirg\1001\1001.app.doc

51. The system of claim 35 further including a history tracking system tracking changes to data in the data store.